



## **ARIZONA CENTENNIAL**

### **Arizona Best Fest – Salute to Arizona**

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Saturday, February 11, 2012 – 5:35 p.m.

**Thank you, Mr. Bouma.**

**And, thanks to Snell & Wilmer for sponsoring this evening's Centennial Event ... Salute to Arizona!**

**Well, good evening, everyone. I hope you're ready for a great time -- the Arizona Best Fest – and the beginning of a terrific birthday celebration for our great state of Arizona.**

**Hundreds of people and years of work have gone into the planning for these festivities –  
and I'm honored to be here to help start the birthday party!**

**Just like this evening -- one hundred years ago -- the streets of Phoenix were filled with joyous celebrations.**

**Arizonans were excited about statehood-- and what the future held for the last contiguous state in the Union.**

**I believe those people who stood on these very same streets one hundred years ago would be proud of what we did with their legacy, don't you?**

**Arizona stands strong and proud and beautiful – thanks to what they did – thanks to what we're all doing to pass along that great legacy to generations to come.**

**So, please, enjoy these festivities, celebrate being an Arizonan – and know how fortunate we all are to call this magnificent state “home.”**

**May God bless you and your families, our grand state of Arizona ... And may God always bless and protect the United States of America.**

**(Rex Allen, Jr. performs “I Love You, Arizona)**

**The Governor continues:**

**Thank you!**

**I Love you, Arizona!**

**With that great tribute by Rex Allen, Jr. setting the stage, it's time for something I'm very excited about.**

**I'm so thrilled to see the dome once again shining with the same copper brilliance once intended.**

**And, thanks to the help of hundreds of schools -- and tens of thousands of students across the state -- who collected pennies during the Arizona CENTennial penny drive -- the dome of our Capitol will continue to shine for many years to come!**

**It's a brilliance that says ... Arizona's gleam is back, and, its future is bright.**

**We want that message to shine both night and day. So, starting this evening, at the beginning of our Centennial celebrations, we're shining lights on the dome.**

**It's our way of saying the Arizona Comeback is real -- it's permanent -- it's something we want the whole world to come and see.**

**So with that, we'll light the dome ....**

**And, as the sun continues to set this evening you'll begin to see the brilliance of our Copper Dome and Winged Victory -- will you all count down with me ... 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...**